Can You Beat It? By Maurice Ketten

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WE WILL BE

ACROSS THE

STATE LINE .

IN A FEW MINUTES

Capt. Velvet's Farewell

The Adventures of Three New Yorkers Who Tried to Run a Whole Republic

By Edgar Franklin

SYNOPHIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS. Pollari, Evans and Man, Minto See Year Frank.

Pollari, Evans and Man, Minto See Year Street, Inc. Learners in the franks of Cart Street, Inc. Learners in the franks of Cart Street, in the Learner in the franks of the Seeks Street of Seeks of the Seeks Street of Seeks of the Learner in the Seeks Street of Seeks of the Learner in the Seeks Street of Seeks Street of

CHAPTER VIII.

Day After To-Morrow.

Y name's J. P. Townsend,
Portland, Me.!" Mr. Pollard panted as he scribbled again. "Here, both of you sign it! You're

Henry Willis, Jim-you're William T. Chuckjed softly. "I reported that you give it here! Now, sive me that rid. I was sent to the storage-room. And

Give it here! Now, give me that pin you took from Mendez, Snake, That'll take Tito's eye!" "Woll-er-Dolly"--- 1 mes Evans

"All right!" the leader snapped mavagely as he reached to the inner-

most recesses of his trim faiment

five years!"

when they get a letter like that, what they're hare "Why, that's what they're hare for!" Mr. Pollard laughed. "I don't know who the good man is, and he lossn't know who we are, which is more to the point but when they dig more to the point but when they dig mout of bed and he gets that letter there won't be anything in town ter there won't be anything in town that they have in a gale of glorious mirth. "The Snake grinned wonderfully. The Snake grinned wonderfully. The Snake grinned wonderfully. The words died in a shrick. Beside the should be shown as the pressed against the year hard and then sat squarely atop a wa" all of three feet wide—sat and panted and whimpered and laughed, all at once, for the Bruta and James Evans were scrambling to his side, and only once downward slide lay between them and freedom! And william Ryan's voice had cracked to a strange little whine as he confessed:

"Robby, if it 'd 'a' been one foot higher I never— never"—

"I know. Bill, but—it's over!"

The Snake grinned wonderfully. The words died in a shrick. Beside the point is not known here, but I am is bars. 'It is not known here, but I am is ba

be sure, but not Tito. This one was an even dozen bayonets, upward plumper and unsmilling; rifle over his shoulder, his military tread brought

be sure, but not Tito.

plumper and unsmiling; rifle over his pointed shoulder, his military tread brought him to the door, and there he stopped us Mr. Pollard asked:

"Who are you?"

"The new guard, senor," the other explained, fumbling in his blouse.

"This, senor, by order of our most excellent Captain Velvet was not described."

spatched."

dollars you gave Bentino the corridor. He drew close, fifteen thousand you paid "Senor!" he breathed. "You have t service men." - been betrayed cruelly, but" and the fifteen thousand you paid secret service men."

"Who?" the Stake select.

"Oh, the three fellers Pollard thought were newspaper reporters." Captain Valvet and impatiently, anding another sickening, white light on the immediate past. "Then here the five hundred you paid Mallatted was the only charged me cleven dollars cartage for the stuff he had to seed up and take out again."

send up and take out again."

And he turned and pounded down
the corridor; and again their guard
resumed his steady transpositate the

Pollard examined the window of the call. Then he summoned the "I'll give you \$4,500 for the loan of a few flas," he said. The guard hesitated, then, tempted

I was sent to the storage-room. And now-quiet! I watch, not only over you, but for you! If one approaches, I drop the butt of my rifle, thus!"

Follard seized a file from the bundle and feverishly set to work at the bars. When he tired, Ryan took his place.

place, and in a few hours the bars, were sawn through.

Robert Pollard staggered to his feet most recesses of his trim ranges, and tagsecs.

There was a violent rip and a pile of bank-noises whisease into taint light and air. Fonard has anapped the uppermost one and pockased the rest almost as they appeared.

"Tho! Come neie!" he called ever so sortly. "here's a note I want delivered!"

"Last words to a dear friend, perhaps?" their guard said sympathetically. "It shall be sent, senor—and within the week I promise you."

"This is to the United States Consul, and it has to be delivered inside of the next two hours," the gentie-

"This is to the United States Consul, and it has to be delivered inside slowly and wriggle into the little
of the next two hours," the gentlesquare. They heard the painful tearman behind the barred door panted,
ing of cloth, and, looking upward, their
"Tito, here's a thousand deliars—look
hearts ceased heating, for the Spanish
"At it! More money than you see in
Brute was stuck fast in the window,
and only his kicking look." t it! More money than you see in and only his kicking legs could tell of his trouble.

"I see, senor!" the young man his trouble.

Yet the Snake and Robert Pollard

"Take it and take this note; either deliver it yourself or have some one else deliver it—to the Consul personally and absolutely without fall. Will you do it."

Their guard controlled himself with visible effort.

"Senor!" he cried softly. "As you would trust your own brother so trust me!"

He had fled. The master mind leaned against the bars and mopped his brow, and his smile, if weak, was very happy.

"I see, senor!" the young man his trouble. Yet the Snake and Robert Pollard rose to the emergency and the chair, and seized William Ryan's legs and pushed with every ounce of force left in them. Outdoors there was a stifled shout, and a queer shudder went through the legs, but the Spanish Brute gave suddenly and passed into the outer world, all pitchy with beforedawn blackness.

His pained face appeared in the candle light for an instant, his band reached in, and they passed him. "Tope. When the Snake had writh through the window, and Mr. Pollard.

leaned against the bars and moped its brow, and his smile, if weak, was very happy.

"Well, that shows how little it ever pays to get excited." he muttered.

"If I'd thought of that in the first place I could have laughed at the old ool and set him crazy!"

"And at that his face'll be something to look at when the Consultets here!" William Ryan exuited.

Do they come around pretty quick when they get a letter like that, Bobby?"

"Why, that's what they're here "Why, that's what they're here"

"Why, that's what they're here summerly atop a wa'l all of three feet

"And just as quick as we get there
I'B have to telephone Dolly," he
stated. "She might have heard about
this and be worrying, and"
"What sort of utterly brainless fools
The words died in a shriek. Beside
then the slide had been removed from
an old time dark lantern. Beside
them, in the other direction, the
heard said more quietly. "There's no
lard said more quietly. "There's no
take letting Velvet find out ahead of
time; it would spoil the fun if he had
a chance to run—the infernal old
hound this time, and"
"What sort of utterly brainless fools
"Velvet, senor, and may his senor, for—oh, it is incredible!—
"Velvet, senor, and may his senor, for—oh, it is incredible!—
"Velvet, senor, and may his senor, for—oh, it is incredible!—
the function for all, at the risk of my life! And
this, senor, for—oh, it is incredible!—
the function for all, at the risk of my life! And
this, senor, for—oh, it is incredible!—
the function for all, at the risk of my life! And
this, senor, for—oh, it is incredible!—
the function five thousand dollars."
He peered until his eyes popped
the may he said this, senor, for—oh, it is incredible!—
the function for all, at the risk of my life! And
this, senor, for—oh, it is incredible!—
the function for all, at the risk of my life! And
this, senor, for—oh, it is incredible!—
the may he said and bear are function for all and the strength for all, at the risk of my life.

The words died in a shriek. Beside
them the slide had been removed from
an old time dark lantern. Beside
them, in the other direction, the
statically.

The words died in a shriek. Beside
them the slide had been removed from
and old time dark lantern. Beside
them, in the other direction, the
statically.

The words died in a shriek. Beside
them the slide had been removed from
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them the slide had been removed from
and old time dark lantern. Beside
them, in the other direction, the
statically.

The wasterning the fool and the static depths
them the slide had been removed from
and old time dark lan

CHAPTER IX.

about and it occurred to Mr. Pollard

"You have paid good money for have a man waiting with a club or a

that, by concealing one behind him

betrayal by the tools of Veivet!" the

and luring their guard quite close to

soldier said impatiently. "I, who but

"But," continued Mr. Pollard, and

in But," continued Mr. Pollard, and

the barred door, at least one small

bones, am not of these! I am Ro
also take out a stone over there, and

that?" the Spanian Brute gasped.

"A shot, senor—a single shot!" their guard answered with much feeling. "And he, served with much feeling. "And he, sur Tito, our comrade, our friend, has weetness. The monotonous tramp was still there and he waited one traitor to his doom—and then they perish all traitors!" he concluded and shouldered his rifle again.

Merging with the monotonous tread of their guard, a too familiar step was returning, and into the lantern light stepped Captain Velvet once more.

"The just balancing up accounts for more more there was returning, and into the lantern light stepped Captain Velvet once more to bed," the Captain explained the value of the values of their guards at the continual traiting of the perish of the monotonous tread of their guards at the concluded and shouldered his rifle again.

"Merging with the monotonous tread of their guard, a too familiar step was returning, and into the lantern light stepped Captain Velvet once more.

"The just balancing up accounts for particularly as a cunting, criminal contour that the continual traiting is the continual traiting the stones of the court, with only a little sparked wickedly and suspiciously: "There you will dig up-laterly ahead—for cogether that they almost joined, and the text and the continual traiting the stones of the court, with only a little sparked wickedly and suspiciously: "There you will dig up-laterly ahead—for cogether that they almost joined, sparked wickedly and suspiciously: "There you will dig up-laterly ahead—for suspiciously: "The criminal type urged expression in alaying a strain to have a suspiciously: "The criminal type urged expression in alaying a court of the suspicious and the control of the provided the door with a single of your cell, and the they almost joined and shouldered his rifle again.

"And consider with what case this stake out as stone over there, and dig straight in the opposite direction. All gast traight in the opposite direction. It is to stone to the control of the murderous attraction of

HURRY UP HERE'S YOUR SIR .. DRINK SIR. WE ARE NOW GETTING NEAR INA ANOTHER WET STATE STATE LINE WE ARE AGAIN LEAVE THAT CTIVE HE THAT CAN YOU ALONE! DRINK QUICK! BEAT IT HAVEN'T DRY STATE

YOU ARE TOO

SLOW !

HAD MY

DRINK

YET

A HIGH BALL

ON THIS TRAIN 2. NO SIR

WE ARE

CROSSING

DRY STATE

The master mind listened no longer:

"Well, your business sense is highly developed, but we're not biting this fling back toward his stricken friends. morning," he said. "Go on with your murch!"

se chance to run—the infernal old hound?"

Sllence dropped once mere upon the damp, stone cell, but it was another silence and another cell. Gloom had flown, and the chill was all gone. The same and another cell ground unit was all gone. The same structure of the tribute of the door, and the chill was all gone. The same second, Robert Pollard had stress approached and Mr. Pollard interest to the door.

See has started, "Be come to say that the messence where the sound that the contemplated jumping."

It was a long way below, but it seemed to be an excellent light, for in the prison of the kerosene lanterns was thrust out, to add a tinge of bright yellow to the seeme.

And feet were scuffling along the tribute of the seeme.

And feet were scuffling along the still good to the seeme.

And feet were scuffling along the tribute of the seeme.

And feet were scuffling along the was in floor, grotesque in evening and floor, grotesque in evening in the tribute of the stuff. You get the money when the tribute of the stuff. You get the money when the tribute of the stuff. Tou get the money when the tribute of the stuff. You get the money when the tribute of the stuff. Tou get the money when the vall, tou stuffling the day floor, grotesque in evening in along the wall, tou and now, when they looked about thild gupon the siling the tribute of the stuff. You get the money when the tribute of the stuff. You get the money when the tribute of the stuff. You get the money when the tribute of the stuff. You get the money when the tribute of the stuff. You get the money when the tribute of the stuff. You shill the stuff. You shill the stuff. You shill the stuff. You shill the stuff. You alon't go on the stuff floor the stuff floor, and the stuff floor the stuff f

m just balancing up accounts and a planting the store I go his brow was low and receding, and ward, reaching the stones of the country of each of this wing, which is all to bed." the Captain explained there was a cunning, criminal contour yard east of this wing, which is all ly. "Now, that wallet o' mine to his mouth. Quickly the eyes darted unguarded and will so remain. You to been touched, an' here's the four at Mr. Poliard and then up and down emerge! The wall is low! You climb, and discover a little cove with a small boat and care, waiting! Not even then is your escape suspected, for I

The safer Route.

The new guard, senor," the other swylland, fumbling in his blouse. The guard of the profiger of the profice of space of the profiger of the spatial changes of the profiger of the spatial changes of the profiger of the spatial changes of the spatial changes

SIR

Not even ten minutes had passed before a distant clanking reached their ears. Nearer it came and nearer, growing louder and merging with breathless grunts, until, amaz-ingly, Romango himself hove in sight, staggering under a cargo of hard-ware that would have taxed a hand-

remisingly. They went at the next ad dislodged with smaller effort, and remisingly.

THE EVENING WORLD It is a stirring tale of treasure and piracy, with an American hero

- READ IT!

NEXT WEEK'S COMPLETE MOVEL IN THE EVENING WORLD The Devil's Admiral By Frederick Ferdinand Moore

"Hey! It's softer here now!"

Noon came and went. Reflected annihine vanished from the little window, and the gray of their ceil deepened to the thickening twilight; yet they did not light their candles. This was partly because they were burning elsewhere and partly because, on infrequent homecomings, it were better that Romango miss the exact direction from which they arrived.

Yet they had progressed; ah, how

Yet they had progressed; ah, how they had progressed. They guthered in the cell at evening and gnawed further bread and drank further water, and communed briefly. All of thirty feet of rough tunnel had been dug, and if they were within an inch of death, that was a mere detail.

Dantes of the Chauteau d'If, looking Dantes of the Chauteau d'If, looking at these three must have siunk away shamed, for if they had not yet grown long whiskers, they had done every possible thing that could render the escaping tunnel-digger disreputable, and done it all in a mere eight or ten hours of back-breaking labor. The Snake, smeared heavily with

The Snake, smeared heavily with reddish clay, seemed no longer human; when, in the damp cell, he slid into his modish evening coat, the effect was precisely that of the organgrinder's monkey, and Robert Pollard, lately rather well favored, had ceased to be a seem of the seemed to be seemed. Red clay plastered his hair and his heaving chest; red clay formed a smooth crust on his hands and arms

myself. Bill," said the master mind.

"I believe we'll do that. I hate to hand him five thousand dollars but money isn't going to do us much good here—after aurine to—morrow."

"Senorl" cried the guard, stopping eagerly.

"We have the money. You bring the stuff. You get the money we have everything we need."

The criminal lips tightend to hideous smile.

"As the bird files, senor, I go," their owner stated. "Delay—a little delay—now be mine. We can but hope otherwise."

"And now he's gone to tell Velvet all about it," chuckled Mr. Pollard. "So much the better. Once the old of arch of the reader of the pollard. "So much the better. Once the old of arch of the reader of the resumed patrol duty.

"We soing to all the bother of pull—own very slightest exertion by the sovery slightest exertion by the sover slightest exertion by the sovery slightest exertion by the sover slightest exertion by the sovery slightest exe

and two picks. A crowbar protruding from either armpit, and in his right hand Homango carried a heavy sledge. With one swift glance up and down with me corridor he took to passing them with Mr. Pollard working beside the wiftly to eager fingers in the cell. Stake and after a long time the stone ines from the tool-room."

Fortunate, wasn't it?" Mr. Polrd said dryly.

Amounent they glanced at one another; then six hands laid hold of the
and type grinned, as he surrendered
the siedge and stretched. "And now
the maney?"

"Here."

"Here."

"And one thing more." Homanso

"And one thing the glanced at one ancalling back fond adieus as he went.
And then, after miles of travel down in the little gentleman colthe little gentleman colthe little gentleman colthe hittle gentleman colthe hittle gentleman colthe little gentleman col-

But it was out, and the hole yawned "We're done work!" the Spanish a very startled fashion at Mr. Pollar Brute panted at him, and the Snake's and then was caught and hurled flowers vanished before a whiri of bedlip across the cell joy! "Tals is the end of the tunnel!" Nor. Indeed, was the hewildered thad no more than been laid aside joy! "This is the end of the tunnel!" Nor. Indeed, was the newindered han William Ryan was crouching of the self-self state overhead, and it's so loose that the corner of the cell. Furiously, it can move it with one hand," Mr. as that gentleman turned to flee, and avagely he dug, until breath failed pollard's exhausted voice went on he had fallen over Perito and they much and the straightened up for a with queer crispness. "We've struck were rolling.

The court, and there's no one overhad no more than been laid aside intle.

"Well, that over there might be like stated.

"Yes, you can hear it crunch." Mr. Pollard mused interestedly.

"Yes, and you can feel it crunch, too, when you're digging." the Spanish Brute panted.

"Take a chance at it."

He thrust the shovel into his.

we have fifty feet to go; don't start this stage." he and included business at this stage." he and included business at the stage. The and included business at the starting and beauth bis straining start on the starting and beauth bis straining grant. Fains earth drivided down on the starting varity with cold, slow, powerful straines and it was with scane difficulty that he restrained a comment or two of the cort he had beauth exist in the hard twelve or fifteen feet, this sertainly was not the sandy stuff that lay behind the other wall. It seemed actually to push lack at the aboved and after a time Mr. Pollard reached for a pick and dur hose his boads piecemens before accoping them out.

And yet in less than an hour the note progressed beyond their reach from the cell. The Sanke, writing in fer his nwn turn, proteed with the crowbar and reported that another draad possibility had vanished—they were digging into another wall or cell.

Mere earth lay beyond the bar, and the Sanke, albeit every fibre of his abused body rebelled, shut his teeth and set about excavating a chamber.

And etill a third, strangely familiar, And etill a third, strangely familiar.

cell.

Mere earth lay beyond the bar, and the Sna'te, albeit every fibre of his abused hody rebelled, shut his teeth and set about exeavating a chamber from which real tunneting could begin. It was a mighty task but he worked on and on, and after a long interval he called:

"There's room for both of you now: haul me out."

They hauled and wrigsled into his place; and the Spanish litute's happy whoop came out of the hole:

"Hey! It's softer here now!"

Noon came and went. Reflected

"A.a-ah! A.a-ah! They!" There was not a hint of friendliness in that tone.

"And still a third, strangely familiar, shricked!

"Betrayers! Assassins! Now, at their foul blood upon our hands!"

The voice, the sentiment, struck a chord in William Ryan which he seemed to recognize; he dashed the last of the clay from his eyes and giared at the direction whence it had come.

And there, huddled tightly together

And there, huddled tightly together

OBERT POLLARD shut his teeth and cienched his named tight; he could not believe and still, he must believe after turning away for an instant they were still there, just

he had seen them at the first upward bound! Then they had been cowering, ten eyes glued to the open patch of floor from which he had risen and terror in every eye. Now they had not moved, but the terror was gone, and in its place a light appearing that

chilled Mr. Pollard's overweary soul. And now the spell had broken and they were moving apart, and Mendez, in a harsh, savage little snarl all unlike his usual gentle voice, was cry-

"This-this, then! For this we have passed hours of hair-whitening ter-ror, waiting second by second, for the crash of the mine Velvet was laying

"Where—where is—" Mr. Poliard creaked."
"Where—where is—" Mr. Poliard breathed as he pressed against the bandle, senor—life to make the time in silent prayer. It is not known here, but I am heart way. If it is not known here, but I am a private solider. Pay me, and I shall contrive your escape."
"Bitterly Mr. Poliard as private solider. Pay me, and I shall contrive your escape."
"Bitterly Mr. Poliard as private solider. Pay me, and I shall contrive your escape."
"Bitterly Mr. Poliard as private solider. Pay me, and I shall contrive your escape."
"Bitterly Mr. Poliard as private solider. Pay me, and I shall contrive your escape."
"Bitterly Mr. Poliard as private solider. Pay me, and I shall contrive your escape."
"Bitterly Mr. Poliard as private solider. Pay me, and I shall contrive your escape."
"Bitterly Mr. Poliard smiled a him of which the bandle power hasn't is not known here, but I am as to this velocet—see! I spit to clear the power hasn't is not known here, but I am as the private solider. Pay me, and I shall contrive your escape."
"Bitterly Mr. Poliard smiled a him of the world was smiled to be made to the proper to the shall was private solider. Pay me, and I shall contrive your escape."
"Bitterly Mr. Poliard smiled a him of the world was smiled to be and two private solider. Pay me, and I shall contrive your escape."
"Bitterly Mr. Poliard smiled a him of the world was private solider. Pay me, and I shall contrive your escape."
"Bitterly Mr. Poliard smiled a him of the world was private solider. Pay me, and I shall contrive your escape."
"Bitterly Mr. Poliard smiled a him of the world was private solider. Pay me, and I shall contrive your escape."
"Bitterly Mr. Poliard smiled a him to be defined to the shall was private solider. Pay me, and I shall contrive your escape."
"Bitterly Mr. Poliard smiled a him to be defined to the shall was private solider. Pay me, and I shall contrive your escape."
"How many times do you think we have the prospec." I spit to clear the private was a many time your escape."

Snake picked busily and soundlessly at the mortar of another stone; and when—solely for Romary's benefit—is to the master mind had shovelled out oll loose earth for a little, he paused and whispered:

"How's it coming, Jim?"

"You can gimme Bill and that crowbard the leader, "You hardly have to push to send the shovel through it."

"Envely," breathed James Evans, diffight in here with that bar, Bill. I suess she'll fall out."

"Lovely," breathed James Evans, diffight in here with that bar, Bill. I suess she'll fall out."

"His guess was inaccurate, Mr. Polard's side, been a scant four inches in thickness; this one was of other dimensions. Mortar all around it had been dug away as far as the Snake could reach, and now William Ryan was prying energetically; yet the stone remained quite fast.

They naused after a time and found in the case and watch the steaming the country of the country of the stone remained quite fast.

They naused after a time and found in the keeps and still he crawled back and forth, and dragging his little bary was dumping it and dragging to it back again, until even their commodious cell was choked with loose the bary was choked with loose around the bary was choked with loose the sard plantiful.

Nightmare hours dragged into nightmare months and years, and still he crawled back and forth, and still he crawled back and forth, and still he crawled back and forth, and still he crawled back and forth and still he crawled back and forth, and still he crawled back and forth and still he crawled back and forth and still he crawl

the one swift glance up and down the other crowbar; they pried afresh, corner and the tasterii modern furnity of the control o

"Yes, and you can feel it crunch, "Now listent" the thin tone went too, when you're digging," the Span- on. "I'm going to push this up, and the first thing to do is to get out, all the first thing to get out, all the first thing to get out all the